



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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Lappert's banana ice cream in three states recalled because of possible health risk

OLYMPIA - The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is working with Lappert's Ice Cream and Coffee of Richmond, California on a voluntary recall of Banana Caramel Chocolate Chip Ice Cream products because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteria.

WSDA inspectors detected the bacteria during routine surveillance and laboratory sampling. No illnesses have been reported and public health officials are issuing notifications to retail outlets.

Listeria monocytogenes may cause listeriosis among "at risk" people, including young children, frail or elderly people, pregnant women and others with weakened immune systems. Although healthy persons may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea, listeria infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women, or the baby may be born with listeriosis.

The recalled ice cream products were distributed in retail stores in Western Washington, Portland, Oregon and California. The product comes in one-pint cartons.

Production of the product has been suspended while the company and the California Department of Food and Agriculture continue their investigation as to the source of the problem.

Michael Lappert, president of Lappert's Ice Cream and Coffee, is cooperating with the WSDA and has responded quickly to direct their consignees to remove the product from retail shelves.

Consumers who have purchased the one-pint containers of Lappert's Banana Caramel Chocolate Chip Ice Cream are urged to discard the product or return it to the place of purchase for a refund. Consumers may also contact the toll-free WSDA food safety complaint line at 1 (800) 843-7890 with any concerns.

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